



SLEEPING ON DUTY

AUGUST 5, 2024

MATTHEW 26:40 NKJV – (40) Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?”

Jesus is overwhelmed by sorrow at the anticipation of what is about to happen to Him. The Gospels depict His anguish beyond human comprehension (**Matthew 26:36–38**; **Mark 14:34**; **Luke 22:44**). Christ will not merely be mocked, beaten, tortured, and killed on a cross in great humiliation. He will bear the wrath of God the Father for the sins of humanity (**1 Peter 2:24**). He will experience some unfathomable, inexplicable strain in His relationship to the Father during that time (**Matthew 27:46**).

In this state of mind, He has prayed, something shocking in both its honesty and humility. He has expressed His desire that, if possible that these things would not happen. Now He returns to His three most trusted disciples. He has asked them to watch with Him while He prays. Perhaps He meant for them to watch in the sense of keeping a lookout to protect His privacy and solitude. Perhaps He meant for them to join Him in praying, even at a distance. Or, He might simply have wanted the comfort of their presence. Instead, Jesus finds all three sleeping.

Jesus wakes them and asks, pointedly, if they could not have stayed awake for one hour to watch with Him. He will ask them to watch and pray once more.

Jesus gives us His full attention, but do we reciprocate? Or do we meditate on His Word while scrolling down our to-do list? Our prayers are interrupted by random thoughts and other pauses to take care of this or remember to do that. Our intentions might be good, but it is a challenge to set aside some time to be alone with God. No phones. No television. Just you and God. Just me and God. No stray thoughts. No agendas. No to-do lists. God deserves at least that much. Let’s stop sleeping on duty and give Him what He deserves.

SCRIPTURE READING: JOB 36:11

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: You have God’s undivided attention.